

A
Few Brief and Modest
REFLEXIONS

Perfwading a Just
INDULGENCE

To be Granted to the
Episcopal Clergy

A N D
P E O P L E,
I N

SCOTLAND

By George Mackenzie, Reverend Father

S. Matthew Chap. XX.

Vers. 21. — They murmured against the Good-man of the House,
23. But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong:
25 — Is thine Eye Evil because I am Good?

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INDULGENCE

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SCOTLAND

2. Manner of a ...
Yes, it is — the manner of a ...
12. It is not ...
13 — Is this the ...

Printed by J. D. C. III.

A few brief and modest Reflexions,
perswading a Just Indulgence
to be granted to the Episcopal
Clergy and People in *Scotland*.

IT is neither New nor Difficult, to multiply words without Knowledge; It is sometimes less Disobliging to be obscure than Tedious; I shall endeavour that what I say, prove neither. And if what I write, be consonant to what I think or design, it shall be farr from Bitterness or Falsehood.

The question now agitated with so great heat; Is, whether it is fit that a Tolleration should be granted to those of the Episcopal perswasion in *Scotland*, for the quiet Exercise of Gods Worship? Under these provisions, *viz.* The presbyterian Government is to continue to be the only Ecclesiasticall Government within the Kingdom. *2do.* The Indulged Clergie, are not to be Members of General Assemblies, Synods, Presbyteries, unless they be assumed into Communion of Jurisdiction by these Respective Judicatories. *3tio.* Wherever a Presbyterian Minister is established, in any Parish Church; The Episcopal Minister shall Preach only, to such as willingly come to hear him, in privat houses, or a meeting house provided by those of that perswasion therein. *4to.* Wherever a Presbyterian Minister is Established, He only shall

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have Right to the Legal Stipend, 520. None of the Tol-
 erated Ministers, shall be admitted, without a Test of
 their being Protestants, by owning the Confession of Faith
 either of the Church of *England, Belgia, Helvetia* or *Ge-
 neva*, or by the Confession of Faith Constituted at our Re-
 formation from Popery, Established by our Law; And Re-
 corded amongst our Acts of Parliament.

This being the Toleration proposed, The next con-
 sideration is, for whom it is desired; It is Impudence to
 deny this truth, that at least the half of *Scotland*, do de-
 sire a Toleration. This short Paper is not fit to contain a
 Proof thereof by enumeration, the certainty of it is known
 to many, and the probability of it may appear to all,
 from these few Instances. The Towns of *Glasgow, Dun-
 dee, Aberdeen, and Elgin*, And the Shire of *Fife*, are a-
 mongst these places, where Presbyterie is said to be best
 established; and in the 5 western Shires, And where it is
 said, that Episcopal Preachers are so hated by the general-
 ity, That the peace will be in danger, by a general Mobb;
 And this is holden as proved, by the late Mobb in *Glas-
 gow*.

And yet, there is full proof ready to be shown by above
 400 Subscriptions of the prime Inhabitants of *Glasgow*;
 by two to one in *Dundee*; By 4. to one in *Aberdeen*, E-
 specially of the Chief Merchants, and Burgers; By 3 to
 One in *Elgin*; And by 5000 Subscriptions in *Fife*; That a
 Toleration to Episcopal Ministers in these places is ear-
 nestly desired.

These may deny any thing, who will not confess a thing
 so notour as, that, generally, The North of *Scotland* are
 not Inclined to Presbytery, not one of Ten; And albeit
 this Present Parliament are chosen, under a Ministry and
 Government, very favourable to Presbytery; Yet the Re-
 presentatives of the Shires of *Orkney, Caithness, Ross,
 Cromartie, Banff Shire, Aberdeen Shire, Kincardine Shire,
 Forfar*

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Forfar Shire, *Perth* Shire, *Fife* Shire, *Kinross* Shire, *Stirling* Shire, and *Edinburgh* Shire; will tell, how acceptable a Toleration will be in these Shires; And if the Representatives of the Shire of *Southland*, *Inverness* Shire, *Nairn* Shire, *East-Louthian*, and some others may judge it unfit for them, to publish the same truth, as to their Shires; Yet a very little Inquirie in these places, will soon find that it is so. By which it will be evident that a Toleration is desireable by the greatest part of the Nation: But on a Supposition, that it were not, Yea that the want of a Toleration should dissatisfie only a Third or a fourth Part; And that Dissatisfaction is the great cause of Disaffection; may it not appear a prudent Act of the Government, to grant them a Toleration; Thereby, not only to allay, But to please; And consequently to prevent the Danger of Disaffection in many; And the opportunity, which that may offer to the Strong Common Enemies of our Religion, Queen and Nation.

It is said, that it will dissatisfie the whole Presbyterian Party, that a Toleration should be granted; Indeed if any thing were imposed upon presbyterians, which might force or oblige any of them, to alter, disown, or change their Opinion, or to hinder them from professing or owning thereof; If they were hindred or impeded to exerce their Function of the Ministry, yea, and their Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction also; over all and every one of the Presbyterians in the Nation; If any of their Benefices were either withdrawn or diminished. If any Church, wherein they are established, were invaded, they might complain; But when nothing is desired further, than that they should not force or necessitate others, either to deny or suppress their Judgments or Opinions; When they are only forbid to hinder others from worshipping GOD, not a different GOD, No, nor in a different Profession in any fundamental Article of Faith; But in Conformity with Reformed Protestant Churches

Churches, and differing from the Presbyterians alienarly; In some Forms of the External Government of the Church, And some Rites in Worship, used in the first and best reformed Churches; Those who will be dissatisfied, because they are hindred to exerce a Despotick, or (Excuse the Word) Antichristian power, over the Consciences and Liberties of their Fellow Subjects, whilst there is not the least Impediment or Alteration, indeavoured among themselves; I say such domineering Humours should not be encouraged, much less supported, at so dear a Rate, as to impose a real Evil, or a force, on the Consciences & Inclinations of so great a part of the Nation; For it is a strange tenderness of Conscience in them which cannot be satisfied with their own Liberty, and Immunity in the Exercise of their Religion, and a full establishment of their Jurisdiction, over all who are of their Opinion; Unless they have also Liberty to force others to be of their Opinion, or to punish them, if they be not; with no less Censure, than to be deprived of the Exercise of publick Divine Worship.

This Paper being intended only for laying the State of this Case in a plain view, none needs expect from it any full arguing, either for or against Toleration: It may suffice, that the Reasons for it, have appeared strong enough, to induce the Reformed Protestant Church of *Holland*, to grant it; To the great Advantage of Religion, Peace, Strength and Security of their Common-wealth, & to the increase of the Christian Spirit of Charity, All Inhabitants there, living as Bretheren, to the great Grief of *Rome* and *France*, and which Toleration is one of the greatest Causes of the power of that illustrious Common-wealth, whereby it is at this Day one of the Hands inabled to withstand the insulting Power of the greatest Monarch in *Europe*, and their own, and *Britains* greatest Enemy.

The other, and indeed under GOD the right hand of
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our safety from that Danger, being our Gracious and Glorious Queen, who is mightily inabled for that great End by the Unanimity and Concord of her *English* Subjects. And the Unity of whose Affection unto her, is not a little promoted, by the Toleration granted to all dissenting Protestants. And it is certain, that the Toleration granted by the Church of *England*, and the Church of *Holland* to their Inhabitants, is not only extended to these, who differ from them, as to Forms of Government, and Rites of Worship only, but also in various *Dogmas*, which the present Church of *Scotland*, would Rank amongst Articles of Faith; And yet they themselves do not alledge that the Differences betwixt the Episcopal Party in *Scotland* and them comes up to such Importance: What a shame is it then, for *Scotland* to be so narrow hearted: and to provoke such Animosities within the Kingdom, whilst all other Reformed Churches, take the contrary Course.

Some Papers handed about, and stuffed with more Heat than Discretion, hath hasted this Paper, as an Usher to prepare your Minds, for some more, which may be, and perhaps shall be said, on the matter of Toleration it self, if the Writer shall have the good happ of 3. or 4. hours Time to write it: I shall only add to this my earnest wish That this serious Matter may be considered without the prejudice of singular Opinion, Hierarchical Pride, Passion in Persons, or interest in Factions: And that the necessitated hast in writing, may excuse it's Defects, either as to the Matter or its Form.

F I N I S.

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 of Faith, and yet they themselves do not allege that the
 Differences between the Episcopal Party in Scotland and
 themselves are of such Importance: What a thing is it
 therefore to be so narrow minded, as to provide
 such Animadversions against the dissenting, whilst all other
 Reformed Churches, in the country Con-
 sidered, Some Papers, and Libels, and Libels with more Here
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